

II. Recommendations

This chapter presents the recommended improvements and associated problem statements resulting from the transportation needs assessment conducted during the development of the CTP for the Town of Troutman. These improvements are needed to enable the Troutman transportation system to serve anticipated travel desires as this area continues to grow.

Highway Map

The recommended highway map for the planning area is presented in Figure 1 - Sheet 2. This map classifies the major highway system into five categories depending on the type of service each roadway provides. These classifications (freeways, expressways, boulevards, other major thoroughfares and minor thoroughfares) are described in detail in Appendix B. Refer to Appendix C for an inventory of the existing and recommended highway attributes.

The recommended highway map includes several improvements needed to meet future travel demand. These improvements were developed based on the needs assessment, the goals and objectives of the area and the known environmental limitations of the planning area. The following problem statements document the purpose and need for each of the recommended improvements.

Major Improvements

I-77 (TIP Project # I-4750)

- Project Recommendation: The Strategic Highway Corridors (SHC) initiative designates I-77 as a freeway through Troutman. It is recommended that the facility be widened from four to eight lanes with interchange improvements. The length of this project within the PAB is approximately 6 miles.
- Transportation Demand: I-77 is functionally classified as an interstate and serves both intrastate and interstate travel. The facility transverses four states linking the Midwest (Ohio) and the southeast (South Carolina) portions of the United States. Improving existing I-77 will enable the facility to accommodate anticipated future traffic volumes by providing additional roadway capacity.
- Roadway Capacity and Deficiencies: The 2002 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes along I-77 ranged from 48,000 vehicles per day (vpd) to 52,000 vpd. The route's practical capacity is 56,200. The estimated 2030 traffic volumes along I-77 range between 128,700 vpd and 134,200 vpd, which exceeds the current practical capacity.
- Social Demands and Economic Development: Widening I-77 will improve intrastate and interstate travel within North Carolina. Accelerated growth in the